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18 AUG 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

SUBJECT : Study of Classified Photo Interpretation Needs

REFERENCE : Memo to ExDir from AD/DCI/IC dtd 17 Aug 72,
Same Subject

1. Thank you for your note of 17 August. I fully understand
the interest that the IC Staff would have in this important subject.

2. Two factors suggest to me that the initial lead on this sub-
ject be taken by the Chairman, COMIREX and the Special Study Group:

a. Per his responsibility for the production of finished
intelligence and for the management of the photo interpreta-
tion process, the DD/I last December established a study
group with representation from both DD/S&T and DD/I
specifically pointed towards advanced planning related to the

25X1D This group receives overall guidance from
the Chairman, COMIREX, who has community-wide respon-
sibilities for the administration of collection systems. The
Group has since produced a wide variety of papers on salient
aspects of [REDACTED]. The Study Group is represented on a
25X1D COMIREX [REDACTED] that is in the initial stages of
25X1D approaching the problem from a community point of view.

b. Because the Group has already generated consider-
able momentum, it would seem both logical and convenient
to give it initial responsibility for investigating future require-
ments for photographic intelligence -- an effort entirely in

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CLASSIFIED BY [REDACTED]
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE ONE, G. 14832, EXEMPTION CATEGORY:
§ 52(1)(2), (3) or (4) (circle one or more)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON
[REDACTED]
(unless impossible, insert date or event)

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keeping with its original mandate. Since the Group operates under the direction of the Chairman of COMIREX, it will be considering community-wide problems where pertinent.

3. Thus, I would suggest that, under the overall supervision of the DD/I and the more detailed guidance of the Chairman, COMIREX, the Special Study Group take the lead in this study, as outlined in my 11 August memorandum. COMIREX would then expand the study to reflect the additional needs of the remainder of the intelligence community. Terms of reference and suspense dates for the different phases of such an exercise should be developed. The IC Staff will be kept informed of study progress, and General Taylor certainly will be a welcome close contact. Any comments or suggestions he might have will be given the fullest consideration.

4. I suggest that the generation of community action among the other IC members would be more appropriate when the initial studies have been prepared. After the requirements are clearly articulated, we can certainly proceed through IRAC and other community mechanisms to examine such problems as resource allocations, information handling and dissemination. I hope this is satisfactory.

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[REDACTED]
W. E. Colby
Executive Director-Comptroller

cc: DD/I
DD/S&T

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